REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 1-16 in favor of new claims 17-31.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 15, 2006

James E. Ledbetter

Registration No. 28,732

JEL/spp

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. <u>L7725.06122</u>

STEVENS, DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.

Suite 850

1615 L Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20036

Telephone: (202) 785-0100

Facsimile: (202) 408-5200